FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes strafed Tabriz and northern Tehran early on 14 March, killing 17 people, IRNA announced. Meanwhile, Iran fired a surface-to-surface missile at Baghdad and resumed the bombardment of Basra, according to communiques cited by IRNA. Iraqi planes had earlier attacked Esfahan and Rasht, a town on the Caspian seabord, the agency reported. Iraqi spokesmen cited by Voice of the Masses radio confirmed the Iraqi raids on Tehran and Tabriz but denied Iran's claimed missile attack on Baghdad, attributing the explosion in the Al-Rafidayn Bank to a bomb planted by "hirelings" of the Iranian regime. The radio also broadcast an announcement that Iraqi planes hit another "large maritime target" near Khark Island early on 14 March.

As for the land battles east of the Tigris, INA announced that Iraqi troops have tightened their siege of Iranian forces on the west bank of the Al-Hawizah marshes, regaining two areas and capturing large numbers of Iranian soldiers. An Iraqi communique broadcast by the Voice of the Masses said the Iranians have failed to expand their foothold west of the marshes and are being forced to withdraw, leaving thousands of corpses on the battlefield. For Iran's part, a communique cited by IRNA reported that Iranian planes attacked Iraqi troop concentrations in the area and that two more Iraqi helicopters were downed. An Iranian Air Force official also denied Iraqi claims that an Iranian F-5 was shot down further north, IRNA noted. The Iranian agency reaffirmed Iran's accusation that Iraq has used chemical weapons against the latest Iranian offensive, reporting that 180 Iranians were injured by the gas, which also caused Iraqi casualties.

Commenting on Iraq's alleged use of chemical weapons, the Iranian deputy foreign minister stated that in view of the "lack of response" from the United Nations over this issue, Iran will be obliged to retaliate, IRNA reported. Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani also commented on the military situation, warning Iraq in remarks carried by the agency "not to push us into a situation in which we have to use our missiles against those places that we have been reluctant to attack." He also described Iran's land offensive east of the Tigris as a "limited operation," adding that the "major" and "determining" attack will not be launched now but when "conditions are right." In Baghdad, a military spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraq will henceforth exempt Borujerd from its attacks because of recent demonstrations by the city's population in favor of peace.

Lebanon

Phalangist Internal Crisis — Christian leaders met at the presidential palace in B'abda on 13 March and decided to form a committee headed by the Maronite patriarch which will act immediately to unite Christian ranks, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. The Voice of Lebanon denied "fabricated reports about imaginary battles" among the Maronite Christians, and reported that east Beirut, Kasrawan, and Jubayl were completely calm. On the other hand, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio continued to report clashes between followers of Abu Nadir and Samir Ja'ja', contending that over 15 people were killed in the fighting and that gunmen loyal to Ja'ja' have taken control of most Phalangist centers. The radio also claimed that Abu Nadir's men rocketed the building housing the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, which remained off the air on 13 March but resumed broadcasting the following morning, telling its listeners that transmission had been disrupted by an equipment fault.

West Beirut — A car bomb in the Al-Rawshah area killed three people and wounded seven others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Maghreb Affairs

The Maghreb summit meeting planned for the end of March has been postponed because of differences over the Western Sahara, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi disclosed in a statement reported by AFP. Monitored Tunisian media have not mentioned this announcement.

Sudan

President Ja'far Numayri issued a decree providing for the establishment of a Higher National Committee for Peace which will work for national unity and will call for a general regional congress attended by representatives of the southern regions and of the SSU, SUNA reported.

Pakistan

The Foreign Office protested to Afghanistan over another violation of Pakistani airspace by DRA aircraft, Karachi radio reported.

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Karmal Arrives in Moscow for Chernenko Funeral

LD132242 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] According to a report from Moscow, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, who left for the Soviet Union to take part in the burial ceremony of K.U. Chernenko, arrived in Moscow yesterday at 1930.

At Moscow airport Babrak Karmal was welcomed by Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, representatives of the CPSU Central Committee, and high-ranking officials of the USSR Foreign Ministry. After his arrival, Babrak Karmal went to the Hall of Columns and paid his last respects to K.U. Chernenko.

Clandestine on Recent Rebel-Government Clashes

GF120603 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] In recent days the Soviet occupationist forces and the Karmal mercenaries have deployed a joint division opposite Chaman city in Baluchistan on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The division contains 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers. The idea behind this deployment is to control a part of the territories through which our mujahidin brothers move. The report adds that in this area a bitter fight continues between our Muslim mujahidin brothers and the enemy soldiers of the division.

Soviet-Karmal aircraft, by bombing several points in the Provinces of Herat and Paktia, have destroyed a number of dwellings belonging to the innocent people. They killed 14 people during the bombings. The enemy aircraft bombarded a village near Shahi Kowt in Paktia Province and killed 500 people. The Afghan mujahidin attacked the enemy forces in the Bowlan area of Qandahar Province inflicting heavy casualties and damage. In retaliation, Soviet aircraft bombarded the Bowlan region and killed nine women and children.

Our mujahidin brothers, in a well planned rocket attack, destroyed an Army ammunition store near Kabul. The magnitude of the explosion and the damage sustained by the enemy forces was so great that the puppet regime of Kabul has declared an emergency condition in Kabul.

Clandestine on Mujahidin Attacks on USSR Forces

LD131156 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1130 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Our correspondents report from the fortresses of Jihad that the faithful mujahidin are courageously and faithfully continuing their war against the savage criminal enemy. The reports add that the savage enemy forces have sustained disgraceful defeats in every trench as a result of the brave attacks by the mujahidin.

Farah — According to reports from Farah Province, which have also been reported by Tehran Radio, a military convoy of Soviet occupiers and servant forces was attacked by the faithful mujahidin in the Jamal Ghazi area; after heavy fighting, eight tanks of the convoy were destroyed by missiles and mine explosions, and a number of Soviet aggressors and servant soldiers were killed. Also an APC of the Farah Province Border Force was destroyed as a result of a mine explosion in the Soltan Bagh area; all its passengers were killed.

Paktia — Reports from the (Zazi Maydan) area in Paktia say that an enemy aircraft was hit by a mujahidin antiaircraft gun. The aircraft was badly damaged.

According to another report, Soviet aircraft mistakenly bombed a unit of their own aggressive forces, as a result of which [word indistinct] trucks of the unit were destroyed and more than (?30) Soviet occupiers killed.

Nangarhar — Our correspondent reports from Nangarhar Province that as a result of a severe clash between Soviet aggressors, servant forces and the heroic mujahidin, four Soviet occupiers and two servant soldiers were killed, five of the aggressor enemy were wounded, and two Muslim soldiers joined the mujahidin ranks, bringing with them four weapons.

Konar — According to a report by our correspondent from Asadabad, the principal capital of Konar Province, an attack by our faithful mujahidin, resulted in two servant soldiers of the 9th division being killed and four wounded.

The report adds that recently 10 Muslim soldiers from the 69th brigade of Asadabad division, deserted the ranks of the enemy and joined their mujahidin brothers, bringing with them their weapons and ammunition.

Gandhi Meets Gorbachev, Bush, Zia in Moscow
BK131557 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, met the new Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, in Moscow today. The meeting took place immediately after Mr Gorbachev received major leaders of the socialist world.

Mr Gandhi also exchanged views with the American vice president, Mr George Bush, on current international situation and bilateral relations. During their meeting at the Indian Embassy, the two leaders discussed the situation in South Asia. Mr Bush apprised Mr Gandhi of his country's stand on the U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva. He also told the prime minister that President Reagan is eagerly looking forward to meeting him in Washington during his proposed visit in June. The talks lasted for about 30 minutes. The defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, was also present.

The Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega; the Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq; the West German chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl; and the Japanese prime minister, Mr Nakasone, also met Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Gandhi on Talks in Moscow With Gorbachev, Others
BK140334 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] The prime minister has said that his talks with the new Soviet Communist Party leader, Mr Gorbachev, were very cordial, constructive, and friendly.

Talking to newsmen at Delhi airport on his return from Moscow this morning, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there are very good prospects of cooperation between the Soviet Union and India.

Asked about Mr Gorbachev's views on foreign policy and international issues, Mr Gandhi said he found (?these) positive, particularly on disarmament. He expressed hope that things will move in the right direction.

In reply to another question, the prime minister said his talks with the Pakistani president, General Ziaul Haq, related to bilateral matters. He said the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, will be going to Islamabad in the course of his visit to different South Asian countries to promote friendly relations.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that he had discussed the situation in South Asia with the U.S. vice president, Mr George Bush. He also talked with him about his coming visit to the United States.

Earlier in Moscow, Mr Gorbachev renewed an invitation to the prime minister to visit the Soviet Union soon. Mr Rajiv Gandhi accepted it and also extended an official invitation to Mr Gorbachev to visit India. The dates of the visits will be decided according to mutual convenience.

The Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, met Mr Rajiv Gandhi and apprised him of the situation in his country and of tension in Central American region. The prime minister assured the Nicaraguan president that he will do everything possible as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to ease the tension in the region.

The West German chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, and the Japanese prime minister, Mr Nakasone, also met Mr Rajiv Gandhi in Moscow.

Nicaraguan Special Envoy Meets With Gandhi
BK121728 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Mr Pedro Antonio Blandon, the special envoy of the president of Nicaragua, met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. An official spokesman said that the envoy conveyed his country's appreciation for India's support to the cause of Nicaragua, in particular to the prime minister's statement in November on this question. He said the nonaligned countries can also take some action under India's chairmanship to restore peace in the region.

Parliamentarians Pay Tribute to Chernenko
BK131407 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Both houses of the Indian Parliament, which met for the budget session today, adjourned after paying homage to the late Soviet president, Mr Konstantin Chernenko. In the lower house, the speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, described the late Soviet leader as a true friend and supporter of India. He said Mr Chernenko will be remembered in this country for the unprecedented Soviet Politburo resolution of December 1983 on concrete measures to consolidate cooperation with India in political, economic, cultural, and other fields.

Mr Jakhar said Mr Chernenko, during his brief period as head of the Soviet Union, not only made valuable contributions to the progress of his country, but also restarted a superpower dialogue for containment of nuclear arms race. He was also quick to welcome the 6-nation Delhi declaration on global peace and disarmament, which, he said, was a forceful expression of the feelings of the people in favor of healthier international situation. Expressing similar sentiments in the upper house, Chairman Venkataraman said Mr Chernenko was a great crusader for peace and detente. He always showed a keen interest in the progress and well-being of the Indian people. Both the houses also paid obituary tributes to former members of parliament who passed away during the intersession period.

Ziaul Haq Meets With World Leaders in Moscow

Meets Gorbachev

BK131719 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and other visiting dignitaries had an opportunity to meet the new Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, in the Kremlin. The president conveyed his condolences and had a brief exchange of views with the new Soviet leader. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, were also present.

Meets With Thatcher, Gandhi

BK131547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who is currently in Moscow to attend the funeral of late Soviet president, has met with world leaders present there. He held a 40-minute meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in a very friendly atmosphere. Both leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues, matters of mutual interest, and bilateral relations.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi met with the president. During the meeting, which lasted for 40 minutes, talks were held in a friendly atmospehre on bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest. They apprised each other of the outcomes of the recent elections in the two countries and expressed satisfaction at them. The talks basically reviewed the progress in the process of normalization of relations and measures through which misunderstandings can be removed and a cordial atmosphere promoted for further improvement in bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Pakistani Ambassador to the Soviet Union Shahid Amin, and high officials assisted the president in the talks. The Indian prime minister was assisted by his defense minister, Narasimha Rao; his adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Parthasarathy; and other officials.

12 March Afghan Airspace Violation Protested

BK131524 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Four jets and two helicopters of Afghanistan violated Pakistan's airspace in Arandu of the Chitral region yesterday. These aircraft penetrated up to about 8 km into Pakistan's airspace 1 to 2 km south of Arandu. However, there is no report of any loss of life or property. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him on this unprovoked attack.

JANG on Assembly Approval of Prime Minister

GF121304 Lahore JANG in Urdu 7 Mar 85 p 3

[Editorial: "Was This a Mere Oversight?"]

[Text] After studying the recent amendments, constitutional experts have noted that in the clauses dealing with the prime minister's office it is not spelled out how long after his appointment the prime minister will be required to obtain a vote of confidence from the National Assembly. According to initial impressions, the prime minister is required to get a vote of confidence within 2 months of his appointment. However the constitutional amendments now published nowhere prescribe any such period.

The relevant clauses only state that the president will name a member from among the National Assembly as prime minister and that the prime minister will remain in office at the pleasure of the president. However the president will not name any such person until he is satisfied that the person so named had the backing of the majority in the National Assembly.

We have always believed that the constitutional amendments must be placed before the house for approval. However these particular clauses are a very important document and any changes in their contents should be affected after due deliberation and debate.

The said amendment, which is silent over the period mentioned above cannot be a deliberate omission. We do not think it means that a prime minister need not require a vote of confidence from the house for an indefinite period. If this were so the president need not have mentioned a period of 2 months in his speech regarding the amendments. However, the whole matter requires that any further amendments be done after great consideration and deliberation. We also recommend that the previous amending clause of the 1973 Constitution be restored. The elected parliament should have the right to discuss and debate the present amendments and reach its own decision.

Khamene'i Sends Condolences on Chernenko Death

LD141256 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i sent a message of condolence to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on the occasion of the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, Thursday. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also sent a message of condolence to his soviet counterpart Andrey Gromyko. Wishing for the success of Chernenko's successor, Velayati expressed the hope that bilateral relations between Iran and the Soviet Union would further expand.

Khamene'i: Iran Able To Hit 'Any' Point in Iraq

LD131612 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, said the Islamic Republic was capable of hitting any point in Iraq, if it desired.

The president who chaired a Cabinet session today, explained the latest operation of the Islamic forces in the south and said it has been a success.

On Iran's first missile attack on the Iraqi city of Kirkuk, he said "the attack proved that the Islamic Republic is capable of hitting any point in Iraqi territory whenever it desires."

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, also told ministers that Iraq's refusal to halt attacks on civilian areas proved the Iraqi regime had no respect for humanitarian values and international laws.

Another issue raised by the foreign minister was the fear expressed by the Zionist regime over the Shi'ite Muslims of Lebanon.

He said the resistance and self-sacrifice of the Lebanese Muslims has put the Zionist regime in despair and this was a sign of victory for Islam.

Baghdad Bank Hit as War Conflicts Continue

Commentary on Cease-Fire Call

GF122010 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpts] For the first time, and after 54 months, the Islamic forces used long-range missiles to reply to the continued Ba'thist aggression against our Islamic towns. It was done after the Baghdad regime used up all its missiles on innocent citizens in Dezful, Masjed Soleyman, Bakhtaran, Nahavand, and Andimeshk. What intensified the aggression was the misheld belief that the Islamic Republic was not responding to the crimes of shelling the towns because of its inability to do so and it was important to correct this misconception.

After more than 2 years, the warning sirens were heard in Baghdad yesterday. They filled the hearts of the tyrants with fear and dread. For the first time and in order to reply to the hundreds of missiles that were launched by Saddam, the first long-range missile was launched toward the economic installations in Kirkuk.

This reply was an answer to the rulers of Iraq for the stubbornness and arrogant policy that was increasing with the encouragement of the military experts who were giving the Iraqi rulers the impression that they are superior in the air and in owning missiles.

Thus today, and after the Islamic Republic proved to the rulers of Iraq that it is able to reply regardless of its kind or source, once again it announces a call of mercy and carries the banner of peace. Earlier, and before our fighter planes and missiles penetrated Iraqi airspaces, the president announced — during Friday prayers — the Islamic Republic's desire to stop shelling the towns if Iraq did the same. But those who were forceful and arrogant regarded this humane call as a sign of inability and weakness.

Today, the Islamic Republic makes this call again after it proved to the rulers of Iraq that it is a sincere call and that it does not stem from inability or weakness, but from the humanity of the Islamic Revolution, its goals, and its noble Islamic values.

Rasht Airport Attack Foiled

LD131329 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Pr., March 13, IRNA — Two Iraqi jets violated the airspace of Rasht, 323 km north of Tehran on the Caspian coast. The enemy planes attempted to hit the city's airport at 1:27 pm (09:57 GMT), but were repelled by anti-aircraft fire. But they dropped two rockets on rice paddies around the airport and another on a nearby residential area, injuring several people and damaging one home and two shops.

IRGC Threatens Baghdad

LD131511 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Iran will launch missile attacks on Baghdad and other Iraqi cities if Iraqi attacks on Iran's civilian areas continue, the evening daily *KAYHAN* reported from an informed source in the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) today.

"Baghdad is within the firing range of our missiles and if Saddam continues his crimes, Baghdad will be hit" the source was quoted as saying.

KAYHAN did not name the source but said the interview was made at the Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters of the IRGC and the Army.

He said Tuesday's [12 March] Iranian missile attack on the Iraqi oil center of Kirkuk "was carried out by the missile division of the IRGC which is now armed with missiles."

Iraq started its latest round of attacks on civil areas when it attacked a gasoline station and a plant in the southern city of Ahvaz on March 4. More than 1,000 have been martyred and many more wounded in repeat attacks on many Iranian cities, including Tehran, since then.

In retaliation, Iranian artillery shelled parts of Iraq's second largest city, Basra, and several other border cities, while the Air Force bombed Baghdad's "Saddam city", among others in the rest of the country. Iran's missile attack on Kirkuk was made on Tuesday, causing heavy damages on economic installations there.

A United Nations appeal to halt bombardment of civilian areas failed when Iraq refused to accept a cease-fire which was to begin on 23:59 GMT Monday, and continued attacks on Iranian cities.

KAYHAN quoted the source that other Iraqi cities will not be safe from Iranian missile attacks if the Iraqi aggression continues. "Iran's use of such missiles might persuade the Iraqi regime that its crimes against civilians will not be left unanswered."

Esfahan Attack Kills 5

LD131552 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The Iraqi aerial attack on Esfahan has so far claimed the lives of five people and wounded 36 others, as the rescue work continues. Iraqi aircraft fired two rockets at the city's old bazaar, near the Jame mosque at 1:00 pm (09:30 GMT) Wednesday. Many shops were damaged.

Energy Ministry on Blackout

LD131731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] With reference to the necessity of observing the nighttime blackout and the Iraqi air-raids on populated areas of various towns, the Energy Ministry asked the compatriots to observe the nighttime blackout regulations completely. The Energy Ministry announcement stressed that blackout will be imposed by the Energy Ministry if these regulations are not observed.

Communique Reports Iraqi Casualties

LD131652 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The operation by the Islamic forces continues in the southern sector of the war fronts, inside Iraq, "breaking the resistance of the remaining enemy forces in this region," the Joint Staff reported. So far more than 700 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded and 201 have been taken captive. Three helicopters and 35 tanks have also been destroyed.

In its communique, the Joint Staff said the Iranian Air Force repelled most intruding enemy planes during the day, though they were able to carry out raids against the Iranian cities of Rasht, Esfahan, Zanjan and Dezful. Abadan was also shelled. A number of civilian casualties and damages resulted from the attacks.

The Joint Staff issued a separate communique thanking the people "for expressing through the telephone and telegrams their gratitude for the retaliatory operations specially by the Air Force of the Islamic Republic and the recent operation east of the Tigris."

Meanwhile a high-ranking official of the Air Force denied Iraq's claim that its planes had shot down an Iranian F-5 fighter plane.

In other battle fronts, the communique said the Islamic forces killed or wounded a number of enemy troops and damaged parts of their positions and equipment.

Air Force Strikes East of Tigris

LD131705 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13 IRNA — The Iranian Air Force jets and helicopter gunships pounded Iraqi positions east of the Tigris River in several stages today. The Air Force fighter-bombers struck at enemy troop concentration centers, killing 150 troops and inflicting extensive damages on enemy positions, the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards said in a their newest communique.

The communique said the Havanirooz (ground forces air support units) also attacked Iraqi positions, killing a large number of troops and demolishing several tanks, personnel carriers and supply centers.

Two Iraqi helicopters were also shot down in the region today, bringing the total to four since the start of the Iranian offensive Monday night.

Commentary on Tigris Operation

GF132020 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On the eastern Tigris came the second lesson to the ruling regime in Iraq, following the first lesson in Kirkuk when long-range ground-to-ground missiles were used for the first time by the Islamic forces. The first rocket that struck Kirkuk was not launched in retaliation or response to the barbaric and cowardly acts of the Baghdad regime. It was merely launched to alert and remind the despots that following the attack on Kirkuk, Baghdad and other Iraqi cities are not far from these rockets.

If the use of long-range rockets for the first time, was a warning and a reminde , then the battlefronts are fields wide enough to contain suitable response and decisive action. Accordingly, the eastern Tigris operations were launched the night before last. They struck like thunder against the mercenaries of the Baghdad regime despite the state of alert imposed during the past several months. As we have been accustomed to during the years of aggression, the heroes of Islam moved forward deep into Iraqi territory in the eastern Tigris, leaving behind all that was manufactured by the use of Eastern and Western military expertise in defensive positions and lines.

Currently, the sons and soldiers of Islam are occupying the very positions that were yesterday forts for the enemies of God and humanity. They are raising the flags of unity ululating and feeling proud while sniffing the aroma of martyrdom and spilled blood over the Karbala soil.

If the Baghdad rulers yesterday alleged that they warded off the Islamic forces and destroyed their members and equipment, they have retreated today and admitted the Islamic existence east of Tigris. This came in what they called the special appendix to the Communique No 1,768 which was issued this morning. The phrase "enemy forces failed to expand their position on the western side" contained the very admission that we have come to know as the Iraqi regime's habit of indirect expression of statements on defeats and victories.

In addition to this implicit admission, the smell of defeat was emanating from this appendix and the previous communique of last night. Otherwise, what is the meaning of the wretched warning by the Baghdad regime to the Islamic forces demanding withdrawal from Iraqi territory or raising white flags? Can this contradiction of combining withdrawal and submission be interpreted as anything but defeat and victory?

If we want to seek further indications of defeat in the Ba'thist communiques and statements on the operations east of the Tigris, then there are plenty and they even affect the nature and way of formulating these communiques. For the first time these vacant frameworks carry the names and addresses of the commanders and leaders of the military units and also promise to convey more names. Why this development and at this particular time? Is it an attempt to breathe a soul into the empty bodies, which collapsed from the impact of the Islamic blow east of the Tigris? Or is it the new gesture of the Baghdad regime's information service in order to distract attention and public opinion from what has been happening east of the Tigris, and to hide the truth among expressions and headlines, such as "left flank", "right flank" and "heart", convoys, leaders, and commanders, all of which reaped nothing but failure and defeat.

Whatever the nature and the aims of this behavior, the truth remains unchanged and you will know it after a while.

POW's 'Suprised' by Attack

LD131845 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The commander of the 4th Commando Battalion of Iraq's 5th Army said he was surprised at how Iranian Islamic combatants crossed the Hur al-Hoveyzeh marshland to attack Iraqi defence lines east of the Tigris.

Captain Zia Isma'il who was captured in the operation Tuesday said despite the alert order, his forces were taken by surprise by the attack. He said Iraqi soldiers and lower ranking officers spoke well of Iran's treatment of POW's, "because we cannot expect anything else from Islam."

Isma'ii said Iraqi soldiers are under strict ideological control and are forbidden to listen to Tehran radio.

Hamoud Jaber Fakher, a member of Iraq's "People's Army" said he was surprised at the speed of the Iranian attack.

"I was in the observation post in east Tigris when suddenly I found myself surrounded by the Islamic combatants. I did not understand from where they attacked," he said.

Official on Iraqi Chemical Attacks

LD132014 Tehran IRNA in English 1954 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Iran today said a lack of response from the United Nations regarding Iran's concern over the Iraqi use of chemical weapons meant there is no other way to implement international law other than by retaliation.

"Does this indifference mean anything else that there is no other way than to retaliate to realise and implement international laws?" Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Kazempur Ardabili asked.

"Does the lack of an appropriate stance by the international organisations mean that because of the simple production methods of chemical weapons, all countries are authorised to use them?"

Ardabili said Iraq had used chemical weapons in two points in the southern battle fronts today and the U.N. secretary general had been informed.

He warned that Iraq's disrespect for international law "leaves us with a free hand to retaliate" but he added that "we still expect international organisations to act upon their duties and prevent the violations."

He also said Iraq's attacks on Iranian cities today would "certainly not be left unanswered."

Air Attacks on Ilam Thwarted

LD132031 Tehran IRAN in English 2000 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Ilam, Ilam Pr., March 13, IRNA — Anti-aircraft defence units thwarted 16 Iraqi air aggressions upon Ilam region during the past 24 hours. Forty-five Iraqi fighter planes flew over the region at various times at very high altitude. Seven air aggressions took place over the city of Ilam itself.

Tehran, Tabriz Hit Again

LD140242 Tehran IRNA in English 0240 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane entered Tehran airspace before dawn Thursday and fired three rockets at the city. It is yet not known which area of the city was hit. The 5:30 am (02:00 GMT) attack was the second against the capital since Tuesday when three Iraqi jets attacked after midnight and destroyed several homes, leaving more than nine casualties. The enemy planes also attacked a number of residential areas in Tabriz, in the north west of the country, at 4:30 am (01:00 GMT). There were casualties but the exact number is not yet known.

Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD140457 Tehran IRNA in English 0452 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Iran fired a missile at the Iraqi capital Baghdad before dawn Thursday, the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards said in a communique. The communique said the attack was in reply to "the crimes of the Iraqi regime in its attacks against Iranian residential areas."

It said the attack took place at 3:20 am (23:50 GMT), about two hours before an Iraqi air raid against Tehran.

"The Army of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps once again declare that all other Iraqi cities, except the holy cities of Karbala, Al-Najaf, Al-Kazimiyah, and Samarra, would be targeted," it warned.

Iran fired its first missile against the Iraqi oil center at Kirkuk Tuesday.

The missile attack on Baghdad was also the first attack by Iran against an Iraqi city since late Monday. Iran accepted a U.N. plea to stop attacks on Iraqi civil areas as of 23:59 GMT Monday but said it would retaliate Iraqi civil attacks "with full force."

Iraq attacked several Iranian cities in the past 48 hours, including Esfahan, Bakhtaran and Rasht.

Further on Iraqi Casualties

GF140616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] In continuation of the successful operations of the brave combatants of Islam east of the Tigris, the fast-moving eagles of the Air Force and the pilots of the Islamic Republic Army, with their lightning fast attacks on the concentrations of the enemy forces, yesterday bombarded and killed another 150 of the Saddamists and destroyed several tanks, personnel carriers, and war hardware. The number of dead and wounded of the enemy in the latest operations of the Islamic combatants east of the Tigris has gone beyond 700 and there are 207 captured prisoners of war. In these operations two battalions and two companies of the 429th brigade of the Iraqi Army were totally destroyed. With the downing of two more helicopters of the defeated army of Saddam, the number of downed helicopters is four.

Basra, 'All Other' Cities Fired Upon

LD140614 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Iran's Armed Forces have opened fire on the port city of Basra and all other Iraqi cities, except for religious places, using all its weaponry, a Joint Staff communique of the Armed Forces announced Thursday morning. It noted that since the Iraqi rulers were still committing crimes by their aerial, missile and artillery attacks, the Iranian Armed Forces, according to their Islamic and patriotic duty, have opened fire to military, economic and industrial centers in Basra and other Iraqi cities, except for religious places.

The communique stressed that as long as the Baghdad rulers do not abandon their insane acts, Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will further intensify its fire on Iraqi cities and will hit the cities forcefully.

It called on the Iraqi people to evacuate their cities as soon as possible.

Missile Destroys Baghdad Bank

GF140706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0644 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The Central News Unit, quoting news agencies, has reported that at 0255 Baghdad local time [2355 GMT] this morning Baghdad was shaken by a loud explosion.

This report, quoting REUTER, says that the missile hit the 18-story Al-Rafidayn Bank building, an international economic center in the heart of Baghdad. This huge building was totally destroyed.

REUTER, quoting eye witnesses, said that at 0255 local time, or 0325 Tehran local time, a huge explosion shook Baghdad. This missile hit the main office of the Al-Rafidayn Bank, the most important bank of Iraq.

3 Killed in Tehran Attack

LD140656 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane fired three rockets into Tehran at 05:30 a.m. local time (02:00 GMT) destroying two houses and killing three people.

There are still two children, a three-year old boy and a five-year girl under the rubble.

The rockets hit three areas in northern Tehran. Two houses have completely been destroyed and another one has received a 20 percent damage.

'Heavy' Losses in Basra

GF140743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0729 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners. A news report on the bombardment of Basra has reached us just now. It says: REUTER reports, quoting eyewitnesses, that last night Iranian artillery at 2130 local time [1800 GMT] heavily attacked Basra.

As the disciplinary forces of Basra have kept the city under their control, loss of lives and material, which according to eyewitnesses are heavy, are not known.

Tabriz Attack Kills 14

LD140734 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azerbayjan Province, March 14, IRNA — The Iraqi air strike on the East Azarbayjan capital city of Tabriz at 01:00 GMT, has left 14 martyrs and 26 injured. The Iraqi warplanes in their latest wave of attacks against the residential areas of Iranian cities, dropped four rockets on residential areas of the city, one of the rockets did not function

Those martyred include a number of women and children.

More on Baghdad Missile Attack

LD140818 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, March 14, IRNA — The heart of the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad was covered with dust, and ambulances were rushing to transfer the wounded hours after the Iranian ground-to-ground missile attack on the city early Thursday which destroyed the multi-story building of Al-Rafidayn Bank headquarters

The report, quoting foreign diplomats in Syria, said that although Baghdad rulers remained silent until 10:00 a.m. (06:30 GMT) about the attack, this time the Iraqi rulers could not conceal from the public the extent of the destruction, as they did in the case of Iran's missile attack on Kirkuk cement factory.

The diplomats further added that as a result of Iran's ground-to-ground missile attack Baghdad was rocked and a state of anxiety dominated over the population of the capital city. However, Baghdad officials refrained from answering telephone calls of the diplomats asking about the reason of the explosion.

The diplomats noted that the place hit by the Iranian missile was very important for the Baghdad regime since in addition to being an economic center, Iraq's Ministries of Defence and Information are located in its vicinity while Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn's palace is located three to four kilometres from it.

It seems now, more than any time before, that Iran's retaliatory attacks will make Iraq's ruling system come to their senses and halt launching attacks against Iranian residential areas.

Rafsanjani on Tigris Offensive

LD140857 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today seriously warned the Baghdad regime not to push Iran into a situation that Iran has to use its missiles against the Iraqi cities.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that we had hoped that our previous warning that we would launch missile attacks against industrial centers of Iraq would be heeded by the Iraqi regime. However, he added, unfortunately it seems that the warning has not been taken seriously by the Iraqi regime.

"We are seriously warning the Baghdad regime not to push us into a situation that we have to use our missiles against those places which we have been reluctant to attack." He added that these missiles should have been used against enemies such as the Zionist regime.

Further on the recent wave of Iraqi attacks on the Iranian cities which has left large number of civilians martyred and injured, he said "The vicious acts of the Iraqi regime have taken us to a point that we did not want."

Referring to propaganda plot against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said that attempts are being made to portray the latest Iranian offensive launched in the east Tigris area, as the major offensive that Iran is expected to launch against Iraq.

This operation, he added, is only a limited operation of the Iranian ground forces and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani who is also the spokesman of the Supreme Defence Council, on the major Iranian offensive said "As I have stated before, this major attack which will be a determining one, requires certain conditions and it will be launched when conditions are right and it will not be launched now." [Words indistinct] the major Iranian offensive, he said once it is launched no place in Iraq will be immune of it. Such an offensive, he stressed calls for a public mobilisation.

He also warned the international organisations, U.N. in particular, and emphasised that if they failed to make Iraqi regime to halt its attacks on the residential areas of the Iranian cities, they must bear the consequences of such failure and accept retaliation of the Iranian forces.

He once again stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was against attacks on residential areas, however, he added, "What we are doing now are deterrent actions."

At the end he warned the United Nations to meet its responsibility and prevent the Iraqi regime from deploying chemical weapons.

Chemical Weapons Injure 180

LD141000 Tehran IRNA in English 0937 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The Iraqi regime in a bid to conceal its re-deployment of chemical weapons in the warfronts, has ordered that those Iraqi military personnel who are also afflicted by the toxic chemicals not to be transferred from the front.

According to several Iraqi POW's captured in operational area of the East Tigris Region on Thursday morning, the Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in the area Wednesday has also afflicted a large number of Iraqi military personnel in the area.

The Iraqi regime in an effort to prevent the disclosure of its latest crime, has ordered its military commanders to refrain from transferring those Iraqis afflicted by chemical weapons on the

grounds that hospitalisation of those affected will reveal the re-deployment of chemical weapons.

Wednesday, the Iraqi regime, unable to face the Iranian forces, in two instances used chemical weapons against the Iranian forces which has so far resulted in the injury of some 180 Islamic combatants who have been transferred to specialised hospitals. However, severe wind blew the chemical gas to where the iraqi forces were stationed resulting in the injury of a large number of Iraqi personnel.

Iraqi Jets Repelled

LD140950 Tehran IRNA in English 0941 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, Bakh. Province, March 14, IRNA — Several Iraqi war planes at 09:00, 10:05, and 10:30 hours local time — (05:30, 06:25, [as received] 07:00 GMT) violated the airspace of the cities of Bakhtaran, Eslamabad-e Gharb, Bilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, all in Bakhtaran Province, Hamadan, Asadabad both in Hamadan Province, and Ilam, in Ilam Province.

However, the planes flying at a high altitude, were chased away by the Iranian air defence units stationed in the area. In a number of cities, the intruding planes broke the sound barrier.

Message to UN on Chemical Weapons

LD141022 Tehran IRNA in English 1012 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to the U.N. secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, following the Wednesday deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

The letter, referring to previous warnings of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Iraqi infringement of international regulations in its deployment of chemical weapons, expressed regret on the lack of consideration of the U.N. in this respect.

It stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran expected the U.N. secretary general to take necessary measures for the speedy halting of such an inhumanistic act and gross infringement of international regulations especially the 1925 Geneva Convention.

The letter noted that if the U.N. had agreed with Iran's proposal for the establishment of a permanent delegation of experts of chemical weapons in Tehran, the Iraqi regime would have probably faced difficulties in its deployment of such weapons.

Iraqi Cities Hit

LD141205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya headquarters, the center for joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a communique addressed to the compatriots announced:

Following through with our warning to the Iraqi people in a previous statement that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue bombing and shelling installations in Iraqi cities with ever increasing intensity until the Iraqi regime ceases its actions and attacks on the towns and residential areas of our Islamic homeland, the heroic personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning at 0705, 0708, 0745 and 0750 bombed sensitive areas, concentrations, garrisons, and economic installations in Rawanduz, Sulaymaniyah, Halabjah, Hurin Garrison, and the area around (Darband-i Khan) Dam in Iraq, and after delivering heavy losses and casualties upon the Iraqi forces returned safely to their bases.

In addition, at 1330 today urban installations in Al-'Amadiyah in Iraq were attacked and heavily damaged by a number of fighter monbers of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Refuge in Holy Cities Urged

LD141050 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The Islamic Republic warned today that its retaliatory strikes against Iraqi cities would continue until "the criminal enemy surrenders to the truth."

After Iran's missile attack on Baghdad today, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps and the Army issued their latest statement warning Iraqi residents, "specially in Baghdad", to evacuate their cities and take refuge in the four Iraqi holy cities to avoid Iranian missile, aerial and artillery attacks.

"From now on, in addition to the devastating blows on the Iraqi Zionist regime in the battle fronts, we will continue retaliatory operations with greater intensity and until the time when the criminal enemy surrenders to the truth," the statement said.

The pre-dawn missile attack on Baghdad today demolished the 13-story Al-Rafidayn Bank in the Iraqi capital's Shorja business center, a foreign news agency reported from Baghdad.

"Its four upper floors were completely ripped off and the rest of the building reduced to a skeleton. Banks, shops and offices within a radius of 300 meters, including the central bank, had windows blown out and suffered other damage," the agency said.

100 Iraqis Killed in Assault

LD141127 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Islamic combatants of Iran killed over 100 Iraqi forces and captured a number of others in their swift assault against Iraqi positions in the east of the Tigris River Wednesday night.

In its 4th communique, the Khatam ol-Anbiya joint operational headquarters Thursday announced that with the successful Wednesday night operation, the number of casualties rose to over 850. It further added that by Thursday morning some 315 Iraqi POW's were transferred to behind the fronts.

In addition, the communique added, Iranian fighter planes attacked group bunkers of the Iraqi forces and destroyed 23 enemy tanks increasing the total to 60.

Meanwhile, Iranian jet-fighters, supported by the ground forces, Thursday morning attacked strategic positions of the Iraqi forces and set a large cache of their ammunition on fire, also inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Iran Ready To Halt Attacks

LD141224 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — In an announcement Thursday, the War Information Headquarters stressed that since the Islamic Republic of Iran is against any attacks on residential areas, therefore, it is ready to halt its attacks on residential quarters the moment the Baghdad regime comes to its sense and makes firm commitments to international organisations that it will not resume its attacks on cities.

In this case, the announcement added, Iran will immediately cease its aerial and missile attacks on Iraqi cities and residential areas, because, it noted, the Islamic Republic of Iran is against victimizing civilian people and has proved it even in its missile attacks on Kirkuk cement factory and on the economic centre in Baghdad.

The announcement called on the Muslim people of Iraq to exert pressure on the Baghdad regime to listen to the humanitarian appeal of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the world, and thus halt its attacks on Iran's residential area in order to save Iraqi people from further casualties and damages. Otherwise, the announcement stressed, Iran will inevitably continue its retaliatory attacks with full force.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the announcement said, which agreed with the U.N. secretary general's proposal to halt attacks on residential areas at midnight GMT on Monday, has now resumed its attacks on Iraqi civilian areas due to the continuation of Iraqi attacks.

In response to the Iraqi attacks, the announcement added, in the early hours Thursday, Iranian forces hit Baghdad's economic center with their long-range missiles and destroyed Al-Rafidayn Bank in the center of the city.

It noted that the center, one of the most populated regions, could have been hit during the day which would have caused heavy casualties. But, the announcement stressed, in order to refrain from killing civilians, the attack was launched at midnight to reduce casualties to the minimum.

Further on Baghdad Bank

LD141258 Tehran IRNA in English 1212 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Following the Iraqi regime's claims that the early Thursday morning Iranian missile attack on the Al-Rafidayn Bank building in Baghdad, was a bomb explosion, the spokesman of the War Information Headquarters requested the foreign military attaches in Baghdad to visit the site of the incident and see the reality for themselves.

The surface-to-surface missile fired by the Iranian forces at the heart of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad devastated the bank building and caused damages to other places in the business district of Al-Rashid Street.

However, the Iraqi regime, in a bid to save face and belittle the Iranian attack, claimed that the explosion was caused by explosives planted by supporters of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, at the bank building.

The spokesman contacted by Iran, added that if the Iraqi regime was right in its claim, it should then allow foreign journalists and diplomats to visit the area instead of blocking the whole area to people.

Jets Fly Over Kordestan

LD141254 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Pr., March 14, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes at 07:00 am (03:30 GMT) Thursday violated the air space of the Kurdish city of Saqqez. The intruding jets were repelled by the Iranian air-defence units.

Panamanian Tanker Hit in Gulf

LD141309 Tehran IRNA in English 1305 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Pr., March 14, IRNA — A Panamanian super-tanker carrying 50,000 tons of crude oil was attacked by Iraqi jets at 6:35 am (03:05 GMT) today near the Iranian oil terminal at Khark Island in the Persian Gulf. Rescue workers from the port-city of Bushehr and Khark Island were hampered in their efforts by raging fire on the tanker. Unconfirmed reports indicate that between 25 to 27 crew members were on board the super-tanker when it was hit by Iraqi jets. The fate of the crew is still unknown and the super-tanker has suffered extensive damages. It was hit with an Exocet missile.

Ayatollah Kho'i Issues Decree on War With Iraq

GF131131 London KEYHAN in Persian 7 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] One of the biggest Shi'ite ulemas has announced his opposition to "actions contrary to Shari'a" in the Islamic Republic. The Grand Ayatollah Haj Seyyed Abolqasem Musavi-Kho'i, who lives in Najaf, in a decree has claimed that the Iran-Iraq war is harmful to Muslims and that participation by either side in the war is against religion. He has also asked Muslims to solve their disagreements directly and without interference by others. Kho'i, who is the highest among the six sources of emulation in Shi'ism, issued this decree in response to two questions from his emulators in Iran. He thus broke 6 years of silence. A spokesman for Kho'i's emulators in Paris informed correspondents that the decree was issued on 20 February and that hundreds of thousands of copies will be distributed in Iran. In his decree, Kho'i states that what is taking place in Iran in the name of Islam and the Islamic Republic has nothing to do with Islam.

The grand ayatollah who is more than 90 years old, has been effectively under house arrest for the past 4 years. Considering his popularity among the Iraqi Shi'ites, Iraqi officials have done their best to reduce his contacts with the people of Najaf to the bare minimum. Last year a letter from Ayatollah Khomeyni to Kho'i was confiscated by Iraqi officials. Several days later he received it on the orders of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Kho'i has refused to reply to Khomeyni thus showing his dissatisfaction with the republic.

Relations between Kho'i and Khomeyni have never been warm. Khomeyni's thesis entitled "Islamic Government" was written to oppose Kho'i's.

Kho'i is the second grand ayatollah to directly condemn Khomeyni. Last month, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Tabataba'i-Qomi, who lives in Mashhad, also announced that "Velayat-e Faqih" is against religion and causes decadence in Islam. In addition to Kho'i, Qomi, and Khomeyni, three other sources of emulation complete the hexagon. They are Grand Ayatollahs Seyyed Kazem Shari'atmadari, Shohaboddin Mar'ashi-Najafi, and Mohammad Reza Golpayegani. Shari'atmadari is under house arrest, and Najafi and Golpayegani have not completely severed their ties with the regime yet, but have gradually distanced themselves from Khomeyni's extremist policies. Iraqi officials have cut off the telephone of the Grand Ayatollah Kho'i and correspondents have been unable to interview him directly.

Rafsanjani Praises Iran's Use of Propaganda

GF140832 Tehran KAYHAN AIR EDITION in Persian 6 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] In his meeting with participants in a seminar on central public relations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while referring to the propaganda war of the world oppressors, said:

We and the world oppressors are engaged in a psychological and propaganda war. They first tried the economic line and saw that we are stronger in that respect. They then tried the military line and found that this too ended in our interest. They then took up the question of terrorists; this also ended in purifying our society. The corrupt and bad elements were identified and purged. If they had any hope that they would one day create a political vacuum in the country or that they would create opposition groups in the Islamic Republic society, they found that this too is no longer possible in Iran. Now the only thing that I feel exists — and the enemy is relying on it — is war propaganda. This multidimensional propaganda war is being fanned today by our enemies.

I feel that the enemy today is largely relying on the propaganda war. The world mass media have set up a calculated and large-scale propaganda plot against us. This is hatched by the intelligence organizations of the Zionists, imperialists, and Communists. They have begun a large-scale propaganda movement against us. I will refer to only one example, but we must follow up this work; we need intelligent people who should analyse these things. They should trace the plots of the enemy and destroy them, as for example, the story of the prisoners of war and other similar stories. You know this story and it is quite clear to us. They created the incident. When they visited the prisoners of war they themselves created the incident. They made the Ba'thist prisoners riot in the camp and then raised an uproar in the world that the situation in the camp was abnormal.

If things are not arranged beforehand, there is no power in the world today that could guide propaganda on the spur of the moment. A propaganda item should be planned beforehand; I mean, they had planned this beforehand. Then we suddenly saw that this had been planned in a small country also; suddenly the papers of that country started competing with each other to make posters of the incident in the prisoner of war camp. Papers, radios, international bodies, and organizations attached to world parliaments all started issuing propaganda against us.

They also brought in the United Nations. They planned to visit Iran to see things for themselves. That day, we submitted a rightful plan. We said that our claims are more than that of the Iraqis, so you better go first to Iraq and then visit Iran. They held up things for a time.

Finally Iraq gave in and they suffered a setback there. When they visited Iran we happened to obtain inside information from the UN delegation that they had been shocked. When they visited our camps they saw strange things. They saw that these Iraqi prisoners, although they had been in Iran only 4 years, had started to love the Islamic Republic of Iran.

They wanted to chant slogans supporting our hezbollahis in the interest of the Islamic Republic and against Saddam and the United States. Therefore, the UN team visiting the camps had difficulty in drafting their report. There were pressures on them from every side. They felt that if the report was drafted in this way it would upset everything.

The weak point against us that they mentioned in the text of their report is that Iran is brainwashing them with its ideology and propaganda. In fact, this is our strong point. In their comments they have tried to show this as a point against us, but in fact this is praise for us. They wanted to put some point in their report which could serve as temporary food for the mass media of the oppressors but this created some ambiguity in the report. The report said that pressure is put on the prisoners by both sides but the pressure in Iran is ideological pressure and the pressure in Iraq is electric shocks, beatings, and lashings. There is physical torture and sleeplessness in Iraq. O ye unjust people! Is this pressure and that pressure one and the same thing? Are you living in a civilized world?

They later handed this report to the mass media. This was exploited by the papers and some radios in such an unfair and unjust way that it makes one ill. Turkish papers were the most malicious; at the same time they claim friendship with us. After all they are the descendants of Ataturk who was just like our Reza Khan. Both were against religion. They have put their venom into their papers as much as they could. All say that we have started religious propaganda for the Iraqi prisoners of war and they interpret it as torture. They also blame us for a number of Iraqi prisoners of war becoming inclined towards Islam.

Velayati Receives Guinea-Bissau Vice President

LD140019 Tehran IRNA in English 0813 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Vice-chairman [second vice president] of Guinea-Bissau, Iafai Camara, who is currently in Iran at the head of a political-economic delegation, met with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday afternoon. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral issues, and international political developments.

Outlining Iran's foreign policy, Velayati said that the superpowers had employed all means to hatch plots against the Islamic Republic of Iran and to this end they imposed a war on Iran through Iraq. But, he stressed, Iranian people through their faith in the Islamic Revolution and their steadfastness, had resisted all conspiracies of the enemies.

Referring to the infringement of international regulations by the Baghdad regime, Foreign Minister Velayati noted that even if all the powers supported the Iraqi regime, they could not save it from downfall.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran gave priority to its relations with the Third World and African countries and added that Iran supported struggles of the African people against racism in the same way it backed Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims in their fight against Zionism. Lauding the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Camara said that the revolution has had positive outcomes.

Referring to the struggles of the people of his country against imperialism, Camara said that both Iran and Guinea-Bissau had suffered from the tyranny of the big powers. Therefore, he added, the two countries should establish close ties to overcome difficulties. He added that his country had not established any ties with the Zionist regime and that it condemned the South African racist regime.

Transport Minister Resigns, Replacement Named

LD140440 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Minister of Roads and Transport, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, has resigned, said the public relations office of the Prime Ministry, here Tuesday. It added that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, while thanking Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan for his valuable service, accepted his resignation.

Meanwhile, the prime minister appointed deputy minister of roads and transport and head of the state railways, Abolhassan Khamoushi as temporary care-taker of the ministry.

Hadi Manafi Appointed Deputy Prime Minister

LD141054 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Former Health Minister Dr. Hadi Manafi was appointed deputy prime minister and head of the Environmental Protection Organisation, by Prime Minister Musavi today. The former head of the organisation, Mirza Taheri, was appointed advisor to the prime minister on social affairs.

Trial of Saudi Airbus Highjackers To Start 'Soon'

LD141133 Tehran IRNA in English 1111 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The trial of the two North Yemen nationals who hijacked a Saudi Arabian airbus to Tehran Nov. 6 84, will start here soon, reported the morning daily *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*, quoting Tehran public prosecutor, Thursday.

Sa'id Salih Husayn, and Mohammad Ibrahim Almas, were arrested after they hijacked the plane to Tehran. The hijackers demand included non-interference of Saudi Arabia in the affairs of North Yemen. They were also asking for 500,000 dollars from the Saudi Government and political asylum from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The hijackers are charged with disturbing the security of the flight and sabotage.

Iraqi Revolutionaries Kill Government Troops

LD131926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 85

[Text] In a recent attack against the forces of the Saddamist Zionist regime, the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries in the township of Al-'Amadiyah killed or wounded at least five of Saddam's forces. According to a Central News Unit report, during that attack one of the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries was martyred.

Reports also say that in another guerrilla attack by Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries on a military center of the Iraqi regime in the Shahruz region, appreciable casualties and losses were inflicted on the troops based there and damage was caused to the building.